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Hawkins
Attorney Docket: 313KA/49958
PATENT 7-31-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MAMORU AOKI ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/851,347

Group Art Unit: 2834

Filed: MAY 9, 2001

Examiner: H. ELKASSABGI

Title: MOTOR

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the
Official Action mailed May 3, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obara (U.S. Patent 5,841,210) in view of Yoshimura (U.S. Patent 5,510,661). For the reasons set forth hereinafter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over the cited references.

In the Official Action, it was admitted that the claimed relationship between the number of the knurled grooves and the number of the rolling members is not taught by the cited references. However, according to the Examiner, the claimed relationship is obvious, since it was alleged that *In re Aller* stands for the proposition that "where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art."

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